

CWG Minutes March 21, 2006

Vice-chair Sharon Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:10 at the Hurley Community Center.

CWG Members Present:

Tom Caddell	CarolBeth Elliott
Jesse Franklin-Owens	Richard Houck
Carol Ketcherside	J Paul Massey
Earl Montoya	Sharon Morgan
Joseph Morris	Mark Richard
Sally Smith	

Members Absent:

Harry Browne-excused	Tomas Carrillo-excused
Bob North-excused	Robert Southworth-excused

Others present:

Anne Thatcher BBL	Chris Eustice-NMED
Phil Harrigan-NMED	Pam Pinson-CMC/PD
Dee Altosa-Hurley resident	Jim Altosa-Hurley resident
John Purcell-Golder Assoc.	Carol Costa-Hurley resident
Luis Costa-Hurley resident	Jerry Pack-Hurley resident
Diane Crawford-Golder	

Introductions were made around the tables.

Additions to the Agenda: there were none.

Public Comments: Jesse suggested we include public comments at the end of the meeting as well as the beginning.

Approval of the January Minutes: The January Minutes were approved with the following corrections; visitors were not listed as present including Mary Dowse, Eddie Romero-Hurley resident, and Jim and Dee Altosa. Under the heading AOC Update, page 3, first paragraph, the number 25,000ppm should read 25ppm. Also in the same paragraph, the second sentence should say the Hanover/WW Creek IU had not included sufficient lab samples (??????).

Phil corrected the second paragraph under the AOC Update on page 3 where it was incorrectly stated that the EPA has lowered its level for arsenic in drinking water from 30ppb to 10ppb. The sentence should say standards were lowered from 50ppb to 10 ppb. Chris pointed out that 30ppm has been used as a cleanup goal in regional areas.

Bob North was incorrectly marked present, he was excused. Jessie Olgas was not included, he was also not present. Sharon remarked that Jessie Olgas has missed 3 consecutive meetings without excusing himself, which by our rules would require him to ask for re-instatement of his membership. Jessie has not been here since before he was excused for the July 05 meeting. Also Carlos Provincio has missed three meetings or more in a row without excusing himself. His last attended meeting was June 2005. Mary Dowse was present at the January meeting. –Jesse Franklin-Owens moved that we remove these above as members until they come back and ask to be reinstated. The group would like to remind Bob North to call or e-mail these exited members. The secretary was asked not include them on the absent list for January or this month. The Minutes are approved as corrected.



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AOC Update:

- 1) Chris Eustice said the Hurley cleanup is continuing.
- 2) Chino has submitted the Interim Action Work Plan for the Smelter/Tailing Soils IU. Testing has found elevated metals in the vicinity of the golf course. Soil, at areas with lower levels of metals may require only the additions of amendments. NMED is reviewing the Work Plan. The Smelter/Tailings Soils IU is designed to determine potential health risk to future residents and to the eco system, vegetation and wildlife in the area.
- 3) Hanover/Whitewater Creek to San Vicente Creek has been impacted by mine process water and also tin can plants used to precipitate copper. The investigation there looks at the potential risk sediments pose to human health and vegetation, wildlife and aquatic creatures. Both H/WC and the Smelter/Tailings Investigation Units have risk assessment contractors to determine risk to present or future residents. In terms of the Human Health RA the question is, "is there enough data?" ED thinks they do have sufficient data for the Ecological RA. The most important document for the Human Health RA will be the soils and sediments data which are being examined for metals. Phil said the HHRA will be out this year for both IUs.
- 4) Postcards are sent to members updating them on what documents are available and times are set for comments. Generally, there will be or have been presentations on these studies for citizens
- 5) Removal at Groundhog is completed, piles have been removed and soil cover and seeding will happen over the next year.
- 6) Calibration of the XRF is still being reviewed. The XRF may used in the field and is able to identify the critical hotspots. The team hopes to have this ready to go by summer to use for HH RA.
- 7) The Work Plan RI proposal for the Lampbright IU could be available in May.

Non-AOC discussion

Earl asked about the smelter dismantling project. He said that the smelter is considered historical landmark and encourages regional tourism. Two local families spoke with him about concerns that toxins inside the smelter are not released during dismantling. Pam explained that the smelter will be cleaned out prior to removal. There is a consultant (Guardian) who manages the whole removal for safety. The stacks will be removed within the next 18 months. Earl said many residents want to see the stacks remain. Pam said that both are structurally stable but over time they will become unstable. Electric cost associated with the stacks is also a factor. Chris said there is a comprehensive closure plan and bonding which has been a huge effort for Chino and NMED. He said ED/MMD received a Work Plan for taking down the smelter and they are still working on approval of this document. If you want to find out more about the smelter removal call Kevin Meyer about the WP at NMED office in Santa Fe. Sally said she was very disappointed that the CWG was not notified as they had expected and asked, about the Open House for the smelter removal.

Sally also asked if replacement for Robert Q has been hired. Pam said, no, not yet. Chris explained that the AOC looks at historical impacts. The smelter involves an existing operational permit with NMED, not the AOC. The AOC may find historic impacts within the smelter area.

Interim Cleanup in Hurley: Diane Crawford and project manager John Purcell from Golder Associates gave an informal presentation on the Hurley soils removal. They plan to give a more developed presentation in the future. They presented a large map showing the south ½ of Hurley with areas sampled. So far sampling results created green areas that need partial cleanup, blue areas where ½ to the entire yard requires cleanup. Richard Houck asked what has been the reception of the residents. Diane responded that no one is questioning the numbers. Some people want more cleanup for landscaping purposes. Residents can see that a lot of samples are being

taken. A 20 foot grid system is being used. Earl asked why the NRs (No Remediation) are scattered? Diane replied that they are not done sampling yet. NRs tend to be the limit of high concentrations. There is a gradated effect. Yards nearer the smelter are generally pink. The prevailing wind is South East. Most of the contamination is from material handling and fugitive dust. For areas with hotspots they may end up doing the whole front yard if say they want ~~sed~~ ~~gravel~~. Because most residents have seen them sampling and see the trucks come in, and some media coverage, the citizens of Hurley are aware of what is going on.

The purple tags are those home owners who are refusing to remediate. Phil plans to also speak to those residents. So far there are 5 residents uninterested in remediation. The orange areas have had one sample, in round two resampling is done to assure that soils are below the RAC. This process of sampling is done until all samples show that soils are below the RAC. Every property in Hurley will be sampled, maybe not as densely ~~often~~ in the areas further from the smelter. Topsoil is brought in from north of Hurley and sampled for metals and petroleum before use. Borrow areas are East of WW Creek. Fill comes from Southwest Concrete. Sharon asked what the average cost per residence for remediation is. Diane said \$10,000 to \$20,000 per yard is average. PD estimates they will be partly or completely remediating about 250 yards. Many yards have only small patches of soil over the RAC.

There are 4 people sampling full time and one man checking the samples. Several sub-contractors are involved and utilities have to be marked. The contractors have started on the South end of Hurley and are working north. They have started at least 20 properties using 25-30 samples per yard.

Jesse asked about NMED over sight. Phil said he is on site a couple of hours a day, sends photos to the Santa Fe office, and checks in regularly with Diane. NMED is not splitting samples. Contractors send a percentage of the samples to the lab for wet sample to check the XRF samples which generally run lower than lab samples. What the crew looks for is 4,500ppm with the XRF. Jesse said he expected NMED to split samples as they have in the past. Phil said on the H/WW Creek RI they did split samples. Jesse says it seems odd to him that they are not splitting the samples on this important project. He asked if this is typical of EPA methodology. Phil said he feels he has to trust the sampling crew at some point. He said once you see how they check the equipment and how they run the samples you get comfortable with the processes. Jesse asked why NMED would split samples at the beginning of this effort and not now? Chris said there are other ways to check quality assurance. He said NMED can pick up on trends and watch the XRF instead of having to wait 4-6 weeks for the sample to come back. NMED is absolutely positive about what the crew is doing.

John Purcell explained that a standard (actually four standards) is run after so many samples. The standards are run first thing in the AM and every-twenty samples they run. Chris said NMED has oversight for the protection of the residents. PD is required to use air monitors and wetting to minimize impacts. NMED makes sure the steps of the Work Plan are followed. They think their efforts are adequate. Chris thinks this process is done parallel to Superfund standards and quality. Pam said a government approved lab is used. She said all of the samplers and employees are professionals who do this all over the country.

Diane said they do not want yards open for 6 weeks so the quick response from XRF samples saves this from happening. Richard H said if he were Pam, he would be watching this real real close because if they fail it will come back on PD. Pam said John P and Diane have been involved with the AOC for almost ten years and are very experienced. Carol asked what they will do about the school yard. Diane said they will sample there and come into an agreement with the school district.

Feasibility Study for Hurley Soils IU: This presentation was tabled until next month's meeting. Chris is exploring the possibility that a FS may not be needed since the cleanup is occurring now.

Additional Public Comment:

Mark R said he understood that hauling of the Lake One material was to be completed this year. Pam said Lake One is a strategic reserve for PD since the price of copper is so high. Mark asked how long the pipeline road will be used. He wanted to know what the possibility is that PD would move into recovery of the other older tailings. Pam said in the future with new technology who knows, older tailings recovery could become productive. A member asked how much copper recovery comes from a yard in Hurley. Pam said nothing significant.

Sharon asked about a potential CWG tour? Pam suggested that because the Smelter/Tailings IU is getting active, perhaps a tour could be arranged.

Jessie asked if there is any guest interested in being a member of the CWG. We plan to continue having meetings in Hurley. Residents can talk to the community relations representative or if you see John Purcell you can ask him questions.

The next meeting of the CWG is April 18, 2006 at the Hurley Community Center at 7:00 PM.

Agenda for April 18, 2006 CWG Meeting:

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Additions to Agenda
4. Approval of the March 21, 2006 CWG Meeting
5. AOC Update
6. Hurley Soils Interim Cleanup
7. Smelter/Tailings IU Tour
8. Lampbright IU
9. Membership Status Report
10. Feasibility Study decision on Hurley Soils
11. Public comment

Adjournment: 8:33

Respectfully submitted by Sally Smith, Secretary